THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism, however, extends some financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure to the State Governments. Accordingly, discussions have been held with the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh and projects for Central assistance during 1991-92 have been identified for development of tourism infrastructural facilities.

**Priority allotted to Trains of Western Railway**

1741. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local trains on suburban section of Western Railway at Virar and other stations are given lowest priority in clearance against fast running (long distance) trains, and the local commuters get late in reaching to their working places as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to revise this system and give first priority in clearance of local trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir, In fact, local trains are given priority over long distance trains.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Increase in Passengers on Cochin-Bombay Sector**

1742. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the flights in Cochin-Bombay Sector in view of heavy increase in passengers traffic there;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide modern aircraft with higher passenger capacity in this sector in order to meet the passengers traffic; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing runway at Cochin is not suitable for operation of A-300/A-320 type of aircraft available in the fleet of Indian Airlines.

**Conversion of Line between Bangarpet and Kolar Gold Fields**

1743. SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line between Bangarpet and Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka is very old;

(b) whether the Union Government have received representations from the State Government in this regard, and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project was not found to be financially remunerative and not considered for being taken up.

**Import of Petroleum and Petroleum Products**

1744. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of crude petroleum and petroleum products imported during 1990-91;

(b) the average cost per metric tonne of crude petroleum imported;

(c) the estimated quantity likely to be imported during 1991-92;

(d) the average estimated cost per metric tonne therefor; and

(e) the quantity out of the (c) above to be imported under existing long-term contracts and the quantity likely to be purchased from International Market as well as the quantity likely to be purchased on Government-to-Government basis, with the names of the country concerned?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) (i) Crude oil— 20.7 million tonnes.

(ii) Petroleum products—8.66 million tonnes.

(b) Approximately Rs. 2956 per M.T. (F.O.B.)

(c) to (e) At present Government has approved imports of 19.6 MMT crude oil and 9.626 MMT products for 1991-92. Average cost will depend on prices in 1991-92. Under existing term contracts 12.427 MMT crude oil and 3.367 MMT petroleum products is expected to be imported in 1991-92. Spot purchases are decided from time to time. There is no Government to Government contract.

**Employees of Akbar Hotel, New Delhi**

1745. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees, category-wise, working in the Akbar Hotel at the time of its closure in 1986;

(b) the number of employees, category-wise; absorbed in other departments/ministries and hotels etc.;

(c) whether the employees absorbed in other establishments in general and in the Ministry of External Affairs in particular have been placed in the pay-scales that they were drawing in the Hotel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to protect their service interest?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) All the erstwhile employees of Akbar Hotel were paid retrenchment compensation by ITDC as per the Industrial Dispute Act. They were also offered alternate employment in different ITDC units at various places or in the Ministry of External Affairs. Their last pay drawn has been protected Ministry of External Affairs has not fixed the pay scales of these employees as the requisite posts have not yet been created.

**STATEMENT**

| *Category/Name of post* | *Total number of employees* | *No. of employees offered re-employment* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Ministry of External Affairs* | *ITDC* |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sr Maitre de hotel . . . . . | 1 | 01 | |
| Demi Chef de parte . . . . . | 1 | 01 | |